Withdrawal of North Korea from NPT

263. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the developments leading to the decision of North Korea to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIG VI JAY SINGH): (a) Yes.The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in a letter addressed to the President of the United Nations Security Council on January 10,2003, communicated that DPRK's withdrawal for the NPT will be effectuated fully from 11 January 2003.

(b) DPRK has also revoked its safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), removed installations for that purpose placed by the IAEA in DPRK and expelled the IAEA inspectors.

India has supported the resolutions of the Board of Governors of IAEA stressing, *inter alia,* continuation of IAEA safeguards in DPRK.

Evacuation notice to Keralites in **UAE**

264. SHRI C. O. POULOSE:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ultimatum issued by the UAE Government to thousands of expatriate Keralites to leave the country by April 2003;

(b) if so, the number of people likely to be affected thereby and the extent of its economic impact on the State;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for their safe return and to get their wage arrears and other benefits;'

(d) whether Government have taken up this matter with the UAE;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No. There is no ultimatum issued by the UAE Government to expatriates including those from KERALA to leave the country by April, 2003. There is, however, a general amnesty declared by the UAE Government for those expatriates who are illegally staying in the UAE to leave the country by April 30,2003.The total number of people affected by this order is not expected to be very large.

(d) to (f) The Embassy of India in the UAE has been in touch with the UAE authorities for discussing the modalities and implementation of the amnesty scheme.

Transportation of equipment for nuclear weapons from Pakistan to North Korea

265. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether North Korea has secretly transported equipments for its nuclear arms programme from Pakistan in 1998 by hiding it in the coffin of the murdered wife of a North Korean diplomat to Islamabad;

(b) if so, whether the equipment included a sample gas centrifuge used to enrich uranium necessary for producing nuclear weapons;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined these reports and to what extent they have been found true;

(d) whether North Korea has become one of the dangerous countries for India; and

(e) if so, the stand India has taken against the North Korean nuclear arms programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) According to Media Reports